[0061] When it is desired to adjust the appearance of adjustable decoration **40** of FIG. **12**, control circuitry **32** may electrically adjust the optical characteristics of layer **76**, which is interposed between layer **78-1** and **78-2**. As an example, consider a scenario in which layer **78-1** has a color gradient (e.g., a laterally varying color cast) and in which layer **78-2** has a black polymer backing layer with a foreground metal logo (e.g., a metal logo formed between the black polymer layer and layer **76**. In a first illustrative embodiment, layer **76** is an adjustable tint layer that varies between an opaque white color (in which case the logo is blocked and the rear of device **10** has a color gradient determined by the appearance of layer **78-1** and a transparent state (in which case the logo is visible and has a color gradient determined by the appearance of layer **78-1**). In a second illustrative embodiment, layer **76** is an adjustable haze layer. In its low haze state, layer **76** may be sufficiently clear to allow viewer **64** to view layer **78-2**. When viewing layer **78-2**, layer **78-2** is viewed through layer **74** (e.g., a transparent housing layer) and through layer **78-1** (which may impart a tint, gradient, haze pattern, and/or other characteristics to the appearance of layer **78-2**). In its higher haze state, layer **76** may be sufficiently hazy to partly or completely obscure layer **78-2** while allowing the hazy surface of layer **76** to be viewed through layer **78-1**. In a third illustrative embodiment, layer **76** is a layer with an adjustable mirror reflectivity. When layer **76** is an adjustable mirror, layer **76** can be placed in a low reflectivity state or a high reflectivity state, thereby altering how much (if any) of layer **78-2** is visible through layer **78-1** and layer **76** and adjusting the appearance of decoration **40**.

[0062] Adjustable decoration **40** can be adjusted slowly (e.g., with smooth variations over time periods of 1-10 s, at least 2 s, less than 100 s, or other suitable adjustment time periods) and/or may be adjusted rapidly (e.g., flashing on and/off or otherwise abruptly changing appearance over a time period of 0.1-0.3 s, at least 0.01 s, less than 0.2 s, or other suitable time period). The appearance of decoration **40** may be changed intermittently (e.g., once per day or week as a user desires to alter the appearance of device **10**) and/or can be adjusted more frequently, continuously, in response to satisfaction of suitable adjustment criteria, etc. For example, control circuitry **32** can monitor for incoming cellular telephone calls, text messages, email messages, or other communications and can adjust the appearance of adjustable decoration **40** in response (e.g., a logo, the background of a logo, and/or a global layer covering a logo can be changed in appearance and/or can flash repeatedly between first and second appearance states to indicate that an incoming telephone call or message has been received). As another example, control circuitry **32** can adjust the appearance of adjustable decoration **40** in response to detection of an event such as a reminder associated with a calendar entry, expiration of a timer, or other time-based and/or date-based appearance adjustment criteria. For example, when a calendar reminder occurs or when a timer expires, adjustable decoration **40** can flash, change color, change haze, change opacity, and/or otherwise be adjusted in appearance.

[0063] A flow chart of illustrative operations involved in using a device such as device **10** with adjustable decoration **40** is shown in FIG. **13**. During the operations of block **90**, control circuitry **32** may use input-output devices **34** to monitor for the occurrence of user input from the user of device **10**, for the occurrence of particular sensor readings (e.g., measurements of light, temperature, magnetism, sound, etc.), to monitor for the occurrence of a particular geographic location (e.g., a location determined by satellite navigation system receiver circuitry in control circuitry **32**), to monitor for the occurrence of other events (particular times and/or dates, etc.), to monitor for the receipt of a telephone call, message, or other communications, to monitor for the proximity of a peer device or accessory (as indicated, for example, by the formation of a wireless link that pairs device **10** to external equipment), to monitor for the presence of particular users, to monitor for the activation of particular functions within device **10** (e.g., to monitor for activation of a camera application that allows camera **36** to capture still and/or moving images), to monitor for the activation of operation system features (e.g., voice recognition, facial scanning, etc.), and/or to monitor for the occurrence of other events.

[0064] Events that may warrant adjustment of decoration **40** can include events measured using sensors **38** and/or other circuitry in device **10** (e.g., input-output devices **34**), user input, communications, events measured by detecting the operating state of components in device **10** and/or the operating state of a camera application, voice recognition application, sound recording application, or other application and/or operating system software component, and/or other events. If no events warranting adjustment of adjustable decoration **40** are detected, processing can continue during the operations of block **90** (e.g., the circuitry of device **10** can continue to monitor for event occurrence). In response to detection of an event warranting adjustment of adjustable decoration **40**, device **10** (e.g., control circuitry **32**) may adjust the appearance of adjustable decoration **40** during the operations of block **92**.

[0065] As an example, in response to detection that camera **36** (e.g., a camera facing people in the vicinity of the user) is active, the appearance of adjustable decoration **40** can be adjusted to alert these people that the camera is active (e.g., that the camera is capturing image data including images of the people). As another example, if an incoming call or message is detected or if a calendar reminder is triggered or a timer expires, the appearance of adjustable decoration **40** can be adjusted (e.g., by flashing, changing once or twice, etc.) to alert the user of the presence of incoming communications or other event. The appearance of decoration **40** can also be adjusted by a user for aesthetic reasons (e.g., to coordinate the appearance of decoration **40** with a user's clothing, the appearance of a removable case on device **10**, the housing of device **10**, etc.). In some configurations, power consumption can be reduced by using adjustable decoration **40** to provide a user with alerts and other information in place of more power intensive adjustable components in device **10** (e.g., in place of display **14**). For example, the color of the rear of device **10** can be changed relatively infrequently and/or can remain changed persistently (e.g., until cleared by a user) to remind a user that a message has been received. This appearance adjustment process may consume significantly less power than if device **10** were to power display **14** continuously to display the same type of reminder (as an example). Providing a user with notifications and other information via changes to the appearance of decoration **40** may also be less obtrusive than other forms of notification. A backlight can be provided behind some or all of decoration **40** and used in adjusting the